

## **Retro Advisory Committee**

Meeting of April 8, 1997

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### **Meeting Minutes**

#### Attendance

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Steve George, Hop Growers of WA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Dick Mettler, NW Wall &amp; Ceiling Contr Assoc</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>DeAnne Edwards, Pederson Fryer Farms</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rob Sumner, Timber Operator's Council</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Nikki DeMarce, Associated Industries</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>John Sweitzer, Red Lion Inns &amp; Hotels</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Joseph Hawkins, Bekins Northwest</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Gene Vosberg, Washington Restaurant Assoc</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Tom Kwieciak, Bldg Industry Assoc of WA</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

☐ = Present

**Introductions / Minutes** – Meeting called to order at 1:04 p.m. Minutes of the December 10, 1996, committee meeting were approved as distributed. Although an informational meeting was held, the committee did not convene on February 11, 1997 as had been scheduled, due to lack of a quorum. A summary of the information informally presented on 02/11/97 was distributed in lieu of minutes.

**LTD Pilot** – *Catherine McDonald* presented a summary and background on the Long-Term Disability project to date. The project began in May 1995, at the recommendation of the Workers' Comp Advisory Committee (and with legislative approval), and will run for five years. It consists of one claim unit in Yakima and one claim unit in Everett. Some of the significant differences between the pilot claim units and other state fund units are detailed in the handouts provided by Catherine. Evaluation of the project will include information from: claims database, medical bill payment database, employer & worker surveys, and Employment Security data. Measurements will include: medical costs, claim costs, return to work, customer satisfaction, timeliness of service and administrative costs. It should be noted that the actual impact on long-term disabilities cannot be reliably measured for 6 to 10 years from injury. However, the Department is incorporating some of the "lessons learned" from LTD into current programs. Catherine McDonald can be reached at (360) 902-6663.

**Retro Reform** – The committee moved, seconded and carried a resolution asking the Department to give full support to Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1292 (retro reform), currently before the state legislature.

**Financial Update** – *Mark Mercier* discussed the status of state fund investments, assets and liabilities.

**Actuaries' Update** – *Bill White* presented information on the three changes which affect retro adjustments beginning with the 07/01/95 coverage year (and later). First, previously made changes to the size group tables will result in smaller accounts receiving a bigger piece of the retro "pie." Secondly, interest will be included in the overall refund calculation. This change will result in a larger overall refund and will favor the larger accounts. Lastly, claim costs will be capped at \$500,000 for claims resulting from a single incident. This will result in a redistribution of the retro refunds; basically, accounts with capped losses will get a bigger piece of the "pie" at the expense of accounts with no capped losses. Questions, comments and inquiries can be directed to Bill White at (360) 902-5014.

**Educational Symposium for Doctors** – *Kathy Willis* discussed a symposium being sponsored by L&I and the UW entitled “*Reducing your headaches: workers’ compensation tips for non-surgical treating doctors,*” which will be held on Saturday, May 17, 1997.

**Voluntary Protection Programs** – *Ken Werenko* (Safety & Health Specialist) gave a presentation on the voluntary protection program (VPP). Companies that are eligible can become involved in either the “Star” or “Merit” VPP programs through the Department of Labor & Industries. Designed to augment WISHA’s enforcement efforts, these programs encourage and recognize excellence in occupational safety and health. Companies which demonstrate commitment to workplace safety and health beyond the requirements of the WISHA standards-- especially at senior management levels-- are eligible. Participation exempts a worksite from WISHA’s programmed inspections. Anyone interested can contact Ken at (360) 902-5515.

**External Access** – *Al Newman* briefly discussed the status of the external access project. The external access budget package for the next biennium has been cut by the legislature, so future changes and proposed enhancements are now contingent on further funding. Frank Payne gave a brief demonstration of accessing claims data via the Internet. The index screen (INDX) will be available to external access customers (as a pilot) beginning 05/05/97. This screen will list a one-line description for each document received on a claim by imaging during the last sixty days, and is current through the end of the prior business day. Feel free to contact *Carla Reynolds* (360 902-4732) regarding enrollment in external access, or *DeAnna Yenne* (360 902-4844) with questions regarding the index screen.

**Retro Symposium** – The next retro symposium is planned for October 30, 1997, at the Governor’s Industrial Safety & Health Conference in Seattle. Proposed topic is education relative to retro reform.

**Meeting adjourned** – at 3:58 p.m.